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RESEARCH UPDATE

Davey's research examines safety question

Herbicides used properly will not damage ornamentals, turf, or non-tar get species. That is, according to the results of a multi-year joint research project conducted by Davey Tree and Sandoz Crop Protection Corp.

The study was designed because lawn care herbicides such as Trimec, dicamba, MCPP and 2,4-D are often blamed by homeowners for damage to ornamentals. Also, a lack of research information and pictorial guides exist showing the typical symptoms of lawn herbicide damage, says Dr. Bal Rao, Davey's manager of technical resources.

"One of the most common complaints from our lawn care clients is herbicide injury to ornamentals," says Rao.

In all, 210 plants were tested beginning in 1980 at the company's research farm in Shalersville, Ohio. Ornamental shrubs and trees—including arborvitae, Colorado blue spruce, rose, privet, juniper, taxus, rhododendron, sugar maple, pin oak and linden—were randomly planted in blocks.

Questions to be answered

Key answers Rao sought included the potential for drift contamination from

these compounds, the rate at which they build-up, and lateral and downward movement in the soil.

The herbicide treatments and rates per 1,000 sq. ft. consisted of: 1) no herbicide, 2) Trimec at the recommended rate, 3) Trimec at twice the recommended rate, and 4) twice the recommended rate of the three individual compounds that comprise Trimec: 2,4-D, dicamba and MCPP. "There's always the potential for damage to ornamental broadleaves by these materials (Trimec, dicamba, MCPP and 2,4-D) if the spray material comes in contact with actively growing broadleaf plants as a result of sloppy application—or if the material is applied on a windy day." says Rao.

on a windy day," says Rao.

The first applications were made in late April 1982 at Davey's standard rates and methods. No evidence of herbicide injury was found in any of the treatments until 1984, when injury symptoms were noted on only three species: linden, maple and taxus. The injury symptoms were observed in only those blocks treated at twice the recommended rate with dicamba. No other injuries were noted.

Rao says that the foliar damage

noted was not permanent, and the plants eventually recovered. "If these materials are used properly at recommended rates, they aren't harmful or detrimental, and one should expect no adverse effect on non-target species," says Rao.

Containerized plants examined

The companies also completed a "dramatic drift study" where containerized plants—including rhododendron, juniper, ivy, grape and raspberry—were treated directly with dicamba, 2,4-D and Trimec.

Plants were distributed at random in test plots and treated directly with recommended rates of dicamba, 2,4-D and Trimec in August 1984. Subsequent visual observations for herbicide spray injury were made at one-week intervals until October.

Rao discovered that various species respond differently to the herbicides. Rao and a panel of experts later rated the containerized plants on a sensitivity scale from low to high.

The Davey Tree species sensitivity study discovered that juniper experienced only a slight yellowing of young leaves from contact with all three materials, while arborvitae and rhododendron suffered damage ranging from slight yellowing to cupping of new growth, depending on the material applied. However, neither species experienced terminal bud kill or complete defoliation from dicamba, 2,4-D or Trimec.

According to Rao, less than one percent of the complaints analyzed by the Davey lab are linked to herbicide damage, and these problems are most likely caused by inexperienced applicators. "The fact is that insects, diseases, mites, or even frost and heat can cause mimicking symptoms of herbicide damage which complicates diagnosis," says Rao. "It's very hard to diagnose herbicide damage. Planting and postplanting care, diseases, insects and environmental factors are all potential causes of damage. Many times I find that the problem may have started years ago with the homeowner. Over-application of materials is quite common, and many times the damage to ornamentals doesn't appear until the following season."



Bal Rao, Ph.D, is manager of Technical Resources for the Davey Tree Co., Kent, Ohio and a monthly contributor to Landscape Management.

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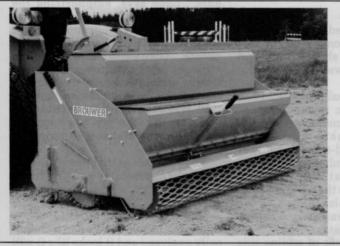
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The overseeding attachment is quickly and easily replaced by a trailing heavyduty open mesh steel roller that covers the seed and firms down the soil.



Model LM67 Seeder

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The Lawnmaker 67 Seeder is a larger capacity seeder/fertilizer of rugged construction that is quick and easy to attach to any medium size tractor with a three-point-hitch. Heavy-duty adjustable teeth loosen the soil and an adjustable levelling bar smooths out uneven areas. The seed and fertilizer hopper bottoms and control slides are precision made in stainless steel for precise flow control, smooth operation and long life.

The unit is carried on two heavy-duty open mesh steel rollers that serve to cover the seed and firm the seed bed. Conveniently located controls give easy, comfortable operation. Designed for exceptional performance, the LM67 can seed up to 2 acres per hour.

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Not just a load of....



Several greens at Quail Hollow Resort in Ohio benefitted from the application of an all-natural, non-burning

vegetative product containing poultry manure. The material added consistency to soil nutrition levels.

Natural products are gaining popularity constantly. Though it is unlikely they will ever replace pesticides and fertilizer, there is little doubt natural materials have a place in the market.

Last fall, Jim Loke, superintendent at Quail Hollow Resort in Painesville, Ohio, was in the market for a natural material to add to the topdressing on course greens. His need for a good natural additive resulted from a lack of Pennsylvania peat and the questionable quality of northern Ohio peat.

What he found was an all-natural, non-burning vegetative product containing poultry manure that is distributed by a Painesville-based company called Bio-Ganics. Chemical analysis of the product showed approximately a 3-2-2 percentage-by-weight N-P-K mix.

In November 1987, Loke applied the product to 11 of his greens and the practice green. Holes 3, 4 and 5 received the equivalent of 1.5 lb. N per 1,000; 1, 6, 9 and 11 received 3.0 lb. N. The double green of holes 2 and 7 served as the test green. Two received the 3 lb. rate, 7 got 1.5 lb., with the area between serving as the check plot.

The results were stunning, reports Loke, who adds that the density and color of the greens were excellent.

Application rates

Greens that received 3.0 lbs. showed no aerifier holes coming out of dormancy, the 1.5 rate showed some and the check plot showed all the aerifier holes.

"What's been real positive," Loke says, "is the public relations aspect. The golf pro, the members and the business customers were overwhelmed at the mid-season quality of the greens at the end of April."

Loke adds that the nitrogen amount put on with the natural was in addition to his regular N totals for the year. "It is a supplementary fertilizer amendment," he states.

Part of the benefit of adding this and other natural products as a source of peat is their cation exchange capacity (CEC), which measures a soil's ability to hold nutrients. Straight sand has a low CEC. In addition to raising the CEC, the natural product acts as a soil buffering agent, making the soil nutrition levels a bit more consistent

over time. This means there are fewer peaks and valleys associated with mostly sand greens. "High quality topdressing material holds nutrients," Loke says, emphasizing the "high quality" aspect.

"At the time of application, the turf was not lush, there was no excess top growth," Loke explains. "We just had a dense, thick, healthy green turf." Greens remained mostly disease-free throughout most of the summer of 1988. However, it is quite possible this was a result of the dry, low humidity conditions the Midwest experienced well into July.

Loke points out that this and other natural topdressing and fertilizer products are not a panacea. They are another tool. "It looks like a viable source of natural material to add to the sand," he notes. "We had it chemically analyzed and it looks like it will satisfy most of our needs."

The product Loke used, because of its very coarse texture, is not one to be used in season. It is ideal for a late fall feeding, though. If budget is not a factor, he recommends a 3.0 lb. application rate in the fall. If cash flow is tight, try the 1.5 lb. rate. Then wait until April.

TRUCK ON DOWN



PRODUCTS

Controller handles multiple irrigation schedules

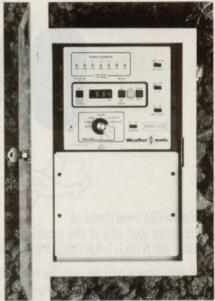
The Mark 200 series micro-processor controllers from Weather-Matic provide a choice of 12, 18, 24 or 30 stations in a heavy duty housing. According to the company, the controllers are easy to program and require minimal training.

An option of six- or seven-day calendar programming allows even-day, odd-day or third-day watering. The dual watering feature provides two

independent programs with four daily start times each. Also, a start-up/ back-up program automatically gives two daily watering starts on all stations in the absence of a specific program. The back-up can be switched off.

A separate test program allows the operator to run all P1 or P2 stations for two minutes each without disrupting previously programmed duration times. The test program will skip unprogrammed stations.

The company introduced the controllers at the Landscape Industry Show in Long Beach, Calif. in April.



Circle No. 195 on Reader Inquiry Card

One-Pass **Dethatch** and Clean-Up.

For the Big Jobs.

Goossen's new Power Rake 'n' Vac cuts vour large-scale groundskeeping jobs down to size with one-pass clean-up. If you handle golf course, park or roadside maintenance, your job just got easier.

Use the versatile Power Rake 'n' Vac to pick up and mulch leaves in the fall, rake and remove thatch in the spring, and mow (with available accessory blades) throughout the summer. And you should see what it does with those pesky pine needles and cones!

The PTO-driven flail "Rake" unit combines with a powerful vacuum mounted on a 101bushel trailer to clean a path over 5 feet wide - and then haul it all away. An optional hand-held flexible vacuum hose picks up leaves and other debris from areas where flails cannot operate.

And when your clean-up is done, the large trailer tilts up for fast, complete unloading.

For more information on how the Power Rake 'n' Vac can help you cut clean-up time, call toll free 1-800-228-6542 (in NE, call 402-228-4226).



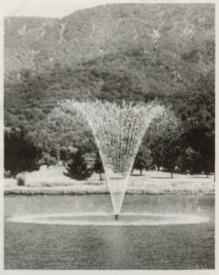
P.O. Box 705 · Beatrice, NE 68310

Another Goossen Solution

Floating aerator circulates water and adds beauty

The Aquavator floating aerator from Rain Jet Fountains, a division of Hardie Irrigation, helps condition water and prevent algae build-up, especially during hot summer months.

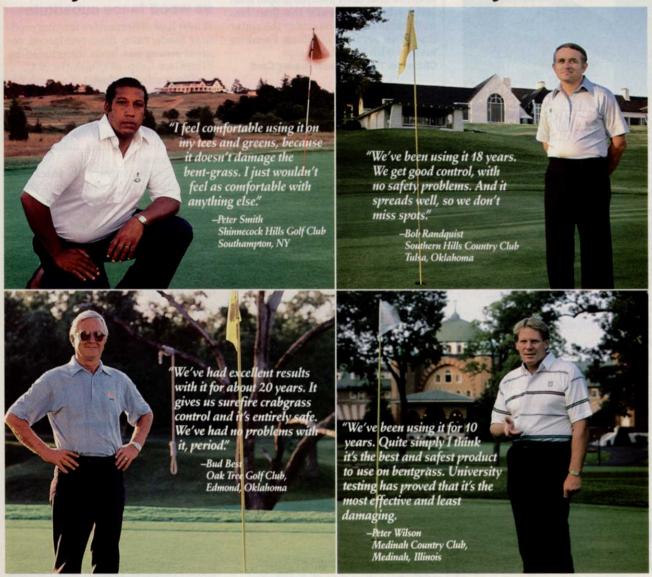
The fountains work on ponds or lakes in golf courses, retention basins



or as general waterscape on commercial sites. The aerators have several choices of nozzle displays available, and all units can be fitted with lights.

The one-piece float body is injection molded polyethylene. Phillips 366 cross-linked polyethylene makes the float resistant to ultraviolet rays.

Why Betasan is trusted most by the best.



For over two decades an overwhelming majority of the country's top courses have chosen BETASAN® herbicide for their bentgrass greens, tees and fairways. That's because golf course superintendents know that BETASAN is the only crabgrass preemergent herbicide that's safe for all turf—including established bentgrass, bluegrass, fescue, perennial and annual rye, bermudagrass, Zoysia, bahia, centipede and St. Augustine.

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excellent for poa annua control, too.

But don't just take our word for it; ask your colleagues at the country's top courses.

We are as confident in their answers as you can be in BETASAN.

Incidentally, it's available in both liquid and granular formulations to match any application need you may have.

For more information, contact your local supplier or call ICI Americas at 1-800-759-2500.



Trusted most by the best





- Stores water and adds fertilizer.
- · Helps control overwatering.
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SOIL MOIST PLUS works unlike any other product to time release both water and fertilizer into the soil, it absorbs excess water with an action similar to that of a sponge. When the surrounding soil becomes dry, the product discharges the water and fertilizer into the soil as needed.

Available in bulk containers with or without fertilizer for commercial application.

Write or call for free fact sheet.



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Circle No. 120 on Reader Inquiry Card



Circle No. 147 on Reader Inquiry Card

PRODUCTS from page 68

A water level adjustment feature built in to the float body assures proper float level which can make the float less noticeable sitting just under the water line. The aerators combine Franklin motors with Rain Jet pumps.

Circle No. 197 on Reader Inquiry Card

Lawn roller incorporates tractor/operator weight

The Rol-A-Lawn turf roller differs from pull-type rollers in that it rests under the back wheels of the tractor. This combines the tractor's weight, the operator's weight plus the weight of the fluid-filled roller.

The roller can be attached by one person without using tools. Simply



back the tractor onto the unit and connect the unit to the tractor. The tongue weight is less than 100 lbs. but the combined weight is more than 1,000 lbs.

The Rol-A-Lawn is ideal for golf courses, athletic fields and lawns.

Circle No. 198 on Reader Inquiry Card

Garden tractor available with two types of engine

Speedex Tractor Corp. has introduced the Falcon Garden Tractor, which offers either a 16 hp Briggs&Stratton or 18 hp Kohler twin cylinder engine mounted on a welded or solid bar frame.

The Falcon is available in hydrostatic or gear drive with many attachments, including quick attach 42-, 50-, and 60-inch mowing decks.



Circle No. 199 on Reader Inquiry Card

Cement material acts as wood fence substitute

A new line of decorative fencing products made from fiber-reinforced cement siding has been introduced by FibreCem Corp. of Charlotte, N.C.

The products consist of a combination of organic fibers, cement, silica, water and other proprietary additives for added strength, durability and long life. They resist fading, rot, deterioration and chemicals, moisture and

impact damage.

The products vary in thickness from 3/8 to 5/8 of an inch for plain styles and 3/8 to 1/2 of an inch for textured styles. Plain styles are 6 to 12 inches wide and from 8 to 12 feet long. Textured styles are 12 feet long and 9 inches wide. Textured styles include stucco, timber or cross cut and are available coated or uncoated.

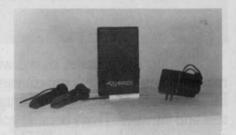
Circle No. 200 on Reader Inquiry Card

Moisture sensor adapts to existing irrigation

The Aquamiser micro-electronic moisture sensor from Conservation Technologies works with either existing or new irrigation systems to provide automatic moisture control on the system.

A time clock controller, solenoid valve or its own 24-volt system can power Aquamiser, which will measure narrow moisture ranges in all soils.

Aquamiser senses moisture levels



and will interrupt irrigation if moisture exceeds a preset level, determined by the user. When moisture level is low, Aquamiser allows regular irrigation schedules.

The unit senses moisture through two stainless steel probes penetrating into the root zone. A transmitted electronic pulse changes when soil moisture changes.

Circle No. 201 on Reader Inquiry Card

Vacuum loaders clean up leaves fast and efficiently

The Salsco 716 and 720 Loadervac truck loaders are both powered by